

August 24, 1970

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
) BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

IN RE: Applications of the General Telephone) DOCKET NO. 15, 253
 Company of the Southeast and the Pee) DOCKET NO. 15, 254
 Dee Telephone Company, Inc., for rate)
 relief.) ORDER NO. 15, 334

TO: GENERAL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF THE SOUTHEAST AND PEE DEE
TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

The General Telephone Company of the Southeast (hereinafter referred to as General) has filed with this Commission on July 30, 1970, a petition for rate relief and revised local exchange and general exchange tariff schedules, which schedules indicate a general increase in rates which it proposes to put into effect as of September 1, 1970. In addition, the Commission received a petition on July 30, 1970, from the Pee Dee Telephone Company, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as Pee Dee) requesting general rate increases as shown in the tariffs filed with the Commission, which it proposes to put into effect as of September 1, 1970. In both, Applicants pray that the Commission permit the rates as filed to become effective without suspension or in the alternative, if the Commission suspends, immediately set a date for hearing.

The Commission knows of no reason why the proposed increased rates should be at this time authorized and allowed and while the petitions and the tariffs indicated that their expenses have increased to a point where relief is needed in order that they continue to operate at a profit, the Commission is of the opinion and so finds that a hearing is necessary to determine whether such rates should be approved, and, therefore, the effective date of the proposed rates are hereby suspended for a period of six (6) months from September 1, 1970 to March 1, 1971, unless in the meantime, the Commission has made its final Order approving such rates.

Since the Commission has just granted General and Pee Dee rate relief, effective March 1, 1970, and the necessity of the Commission's Staff to study in depth the tariffs and schedules submitted, the Commission will set a hearing as soon as practicable at a later date at which time the Commission will hear whatever evidence the Applicants proposes to offer to justify such rate increases. The Commission will also hear any testimony from the general public which will be notified by general publication as prescribed by law. For convenience of the parties,

the petitions of both General and Pee Dee will be heard on the same date unless sufficient cause can be shown that such hearing should not be held jointly.

Based upon the foregoing,

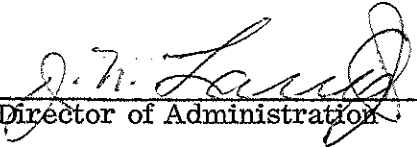
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ADJUDGED: That the proposed rates by General and Pee Dee proposed to become effective September 1, 1970, are hereby suspended.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED: That the hearings will be scheduled as soon as practicable, at which time the Commission will hear whatever evidence the Applicants propose to offer to justify such rate increases and the Commission will also hear any testimony from the general public which will be notified by general publication as prescribed by law.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Director of Administration